

## HOUSE BILL NO. 296

INTRODUCED BY C. SCHRUMPF

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL POSTADOPTIVE SERVICES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES; REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT TO TRACK CHILDREN FOLLOWING AN ADOPTIVE PLACEMENT FROM THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM FOR POSTADOPTIVE USE OF CERTAIN SERVICES; REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE A TOLL-FREE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL HOTLINE FOR POSTADOPTIVE SERVICES; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AMENDING SECTION 52-2-113, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**Section 1.** Section 52-2-113, MCA, is amended to read:

**"52-2-113. Child rehabilitation -- duties of department.** The department shall:

(1) enforce all laws pertaining to children and take the initiative in all matters involving the interest of abused or neglected children;

(2) use funds allocated or appropriated to the department for the purpose of providing for the special medical or material needs of children with developmental disabilities or children with physical disabilities who are eligible for department programs;

(3) cooperate for the purposes of this part with all reputable child-helping and child-placing agencies; ~~and~~

(4) inspect and register or license youth care facilities, child-placing agencies, and adoption agencies; and

(5) track children who have been placed for adoption from the foster care system for subsequent need for, access to, referral to, or use of child protective services, placement for residential treatment, publicly funded mental health services, or any other program under the administration of the department."

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Additional adoption services -- responsibilities.** The department shall provide a toll-free telephone number for parents who have adopted children to provide resource and referral information for postadoption services and programs that support adoptive parents and their children in

1 order to maintain permanency and prevent removal of children from the adoptive home.

2

3 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Appropriation.** There is appropriated from the general fund to the  
4 department of public health and humans services for additional postadoptive services such as training,  
5 support groups, counseling, respite care, and resource and referral services for the fiscal years 2002 and  
6 2003 the following amounts:

7 FY 2002 \$1,662,716

8 FY 2003 \$1,641,716

9

10 NEW SECTION. **Section 4. Codification instruction.** [Section 2] is intended to be codified as an  
11 integral part of Title 52, chapter 2, part 1, and the provisions of Title 52, chapter 2, part 1, apply to  
12 [section 2].

13

14 NEW SECTION. **Section 5. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2001.

15

- END -